## FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



VIETNAM - MATO'S TESTING FIELD FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS

bу

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FTD/TDBDA-WALAEB Ohio



## EDITED TRANSLATION

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English pages: 6

Source: Zeitschrift für Militärmedizin

(Military Medicine Journal), No. 2,

1968, pp. 82-84.

Translated under: Contract No. F33657-70-D-0607

GEZ007576870007002

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VIETNAM - NATO'S TESTING FIELD FOR CHEMICAL WEAPONS

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On the basis of facts known from the press and from statements made by the FLN (National Liberation Front), we will attempt to review the individual stages of the "chemical warfare" in South Vietnam, describe the objectives and effects, unmask the USA's demagoguery, and evaluate the use of CW (Chemische Kampfstoffe; Chemical weapons) in South Vietnam.

American military officials and economists frequently complain that in the United States approximately 180 million persons inhabit a territory of less than 10 million square kilometers; while in the Soviet Union approximately 210 million persons inhabit an area of about 22 million square kilometers, and that the military industry in the United States is limited to a few large centers which can be easily destroyed with nuclear weapons.

When in August 1953 the Soviet Union detonated its first operational nuclear weapon and in this way overtook the United States in applied technology, the United States was annually allocating 31.1 million dellars for the development of chemical weapons (CW) and biological weapons (BW).

1960 the amount was 103.4 million dollars
1951 133.3 million dollars
1953 to 1966 200.0 million dollars
1967 230.0 million dollars

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Obviously, these figures are not very trustworthy, since they were taken from the NATO press into which they might have been tossed haphazardly. However, the comprehensive growth of chemical weapons, organic phosphates, and psychic and sabotage poisons, as well as the appearance of new irritating substances, clearly demonstrate that expenditures for this purpose are increasing.

defensive potential of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries with a more advantageous population density and distribution of defensive industries are objective reasons for the fact that some NATO countries, especially the United States, devote so much attention to chemical and biological weapons.

Naturally, the NATO professional press does not emphasize these reasons. A biased interpretation of ne comparative effects of individual mass destruction methods (HDM) usually is as follows:

- chemical and biological weapons are more economical than nuclear weapons; they can be manufactured secretly at small costs and achieve their appropriate material importance;
- chemical and biological weapons are tactically very versatile; they can defend reutes of transportation and rail junctions as well as other objects militarily advantageous to their users; the extent, onset, and duration of the effect can be adjusted to the tactical requirements "in doses";
- chemical and biological weapons offer great advantages in a "limited war."

The use of chemical weapons in the dirty 'r waged by the United States, its allies and accomplices against the Vietnamese people courageously fighting for their freedom and independence must therefore be regarded as a test of new chemical weapons and utilization of their tactical versatility.

Table 1 contains a summary of the chemical weapons used by the United States in the "chemical war" which it began in 1961 against the inhabitants of South Vietnam.

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## Comments:

- 1. The table was prepared on the basis of information supplied by South Vietnam's National Liberation Front.
- 2. The indirect poisoning of useful animals is caused by the fact that, after application of herbicides, the animals eat poisonous plants which they normally avoid. Furthermore, fodger plants undergo changes leading to accumulation of toxic substances, for example, potassium nitrate.
- 3. There are various opinions as to what irritating agent is concealed under the American cover designation, CS. According to FLN statements, it is thiophospene. According to American publications (mainly from the US Army Chemical Center, Maryland) it is more probable that it is o-chlorobenzylidene malonitrile that has been included in the US Army equipment as a "means for combating riots."
- 4. FLN organizations have mentioned Tabun, Sarin, and Scmall. However, the utilization of these toxic chemical weapons prior to

the development of V-agents completely contradicts the Well-Known inclination of USA imperialists to present their "chemical warfare" an philantropic actions for combuting words and imposts or, at worse, for "combating ricts" as they do in their own country. When insecticides that are highly texis for warm-blooded animals are used in appropriate doses, the same effects may be extended to develon in any objected human belows.

Vietnam through the use of chemical weapons cannot be states. It not been estimated that the employee of hembicides in togeth through October alone, in 1962, in the first state, destroyed 3,200 hectares of mangrove forests. However, the annually repeated application of herbicides started in August, 1961, during which year a 24 kilometer long and 550 meter wide strip south of the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam was presumably "radically cleared of all plant growth."

According to FLN statements of 13 March 1966, 700,000 hectares of useful crops were destroyed, thousands of persons were killed, and hundreds of thousands were poisoned.

In the western area alone, 150,000 to 200,000 persons were gited as injured by "poison gas." This figure approximately—corresponds to the casualties suffered by Germany, England, and France, the main participants in the "chemical warfare" of World War I. It amounts to about one-fifth of the total number of CW injured persons recorded by all countries participating in that war.

These figures show the complete invalidity of arguments in regard to killing weeds with usual herbicides, sombating pests with commercial insecticides, and suppressing riots with means that are used for policing purposes in the United States.

The true intention is revealed by the facts that:

- the application of lime nitrogen as fertilizer and wash killer requires eye protection and impervious garmants, while aromatic

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nitragen compounds to an against temperature require protective devices not only for eyes and the akin but also for breathing;

- iteration with a british of distance in the protection peaks is not customary;

- the application of arm-pic compounds peoplines probective growthing and protective door as if a longithing;
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- 0.1 grows of arsenic is lethal, and therefore its was as well as that of various other agents has no justification at 90%;
- herbiling and insentiations have been appropriate over villages and towns; and
- macrimators and not sternutators are usually used for policing purposes.

There is no doubt that the United States is flagrantly violating the Geneva Convention which prohibited "the use of suffocating, toxic, and similar gases, liquids, and solids as well as bacteriological agents" in future wars.

Even though this convention was not signed by the United States, it still became a valid constituent of international law.

Furthermore, by waging "chemical warfare" in South Vietnam, the United States is guilty of mass destruction for aggressive purposes — an act which was declared criminal by the UN General Associaty on 9 December 1948.

Thus, it is harmly surprising that again in west Jermany we find representatives of those forces which handed terms are zyclone B to the fascists and who want to participate in the dirty, deadly business by selling licences, establishing subsidiaries in the United States, and building "fertilizer factories" for the

deligent development. A different contident the entraction depth, the

The application of toxic compounds has shown that:

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Considering the low exacution objects an intelless of the South Vietnamese rank paparents, the open water happan, and the specific climatic conditions, the open too asternative inconceeded in producing deviations results.

In conclusion, we may state that "enemies, warfare" will have a specific character in each different war areas. The primer committed in Vietnam should inspire us assew to do everything possible to frustrate the imperialist plans.

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<sup>\*</sup>Editorial Comment: In this demonstrate, allowing tetalor information was recently displaced testifying above to the bund-Washington collaboration in the production and use of toxic out the For example, in 1981 the Eager AG Lyo haptory formed with the Chemagro Corporation, an American subsidiary which can used the United States' and Canada's total demons for industrial above Corporation's suspension with the All American Corporation's suspension with the All American Corporation's suspension with the All American Corporation's suspension with the American Corporation's suspension with the American Corporation of the American Corporation of the Corporation of the Corporation with the American Corporation of the Corporation with the Corporation of the Corporation with the Corporation of the Corporation of the Corporation with the Corporation of the Corporati

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